



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JULY 11, 2013

TWO FOXES TEST POSITIVE FOR RABIES IN THURMONT, MARYLAND

FREDERICK, MD – The Frederick County Health Department received information from the Maryland State Rabies Lab that two foxes from Thurmont, MD have tested positive for rabies within the last week. The first fox attacked a man between Thurmont and Graceham on July 4, 2013. The second fox was involved in an altercation with dogs on July 8, 2013 on Meadow Lane in Thurmont. These foxes are the 25th and 26th animals from Frederick County that have tested positive for rabies in 2013.

For anyone who lives in the area that may have had contact with either fox within the last 20 days, consult with your physician and notify the Health Department at 301-600-1717. If any of your pets have been in contact with either fox, contact your vet and also notify the Health Department at 301-600-1717.

Rabies is a viral disease that is spread by the saliva of the infected animal during bite contact. Human cases of rabies are usually fatal if untreated. Symptoms of rabies in any animal can include fear of water, limping, salivating, unusually friendly or aggressive, or other atypical behaviors such as seeing nocturnal animals during the daytime. According to the World Health Organization 50,000 to 55,000 people die annually from rabies.

George Keller, Director for the Health Department's Environmental Health Services advises the public "To protect your family from possible rabies exposure, both people and pets should avoid contact with wild or stray animals and make sure that your pets are vaccinated".

The Frederick County Humane Society is having a rabies clinic for dogs and cats on Sunday, July 14, 2013 at Tractor Supply, just off Route 15. Clinic hours are from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$8.00 per animal for the rabies vaccine. For additional information please call 301-694-8300.

The Frederick County Health Department is having a rabies clinic for dogs, cats, and ferrets at the Thurmont Community Park on September 10, 2013 and at Ballenger Creek Park in Frederick on September 12, 2013. Clinic hours are from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. The cost is \$8.00 per animal. For additional information please call 301-600-1717.

If you see the stray or wild animals acting abnormally, avoid contact and do not attempt to handle it. Call Animal Control at 301-600-1544 if you or your pet has had any contact and to speak with an Animal Control Officer.

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